From: STUART GEDAL
To: Toomey, Tim
Subject: Hello from Stuart Gedal and Info About "Boycott" Resolution
Date: Sunday, April 15, 2018 2:58:42 PM

Hello, Tim.

We have not spoken in a while. You may remember my family name from that of my children (Falcons in hockey, soccer, and cross-country). We live in North Cambridge, and my wife and I have been homeowners here for 36 years. We have worked as volunteers-in our kids' schools, teaching the Cambridge Youth Hockey's Learn-to-Skate program at Simoni Rink, and coaching in Cambridge Youth Soccer.

I was also an employee of the City for 5 years (Department of Human Services) before the growth of our family made going back to school for a degree a necessity.

Over the years I have been disturbed from time to time with the eagerness with which some of my fellow citizens (with help from a few Councillors) have tried to drag our City into creating its own foreign policy. More than once, we have been asked to join boycotts, choose sides in far-away wars, etc. It seems that a group is at work to get the City of Cambridge to dive into the most dangerous and complicated foreign policy issue of all: the Middle East.

When this trend began in the 1980s, Centro Presente and Cambridge-Somerville Legal Services asked the Council to support their stand on a government policy issue. The issue was making illegal immigrants from El Salvador and Haiti eligible to apply for asylum status. You as Councillors, were doing your duty for us. You appealed to the Congress to change a federal law that affected both new people living in Cambridge and long-time taxpayers. The illegal immigrants' children took up seats in our schools, for example. Having a legal immigration status for them made Cambridge and other cities eligible for budgetary assistance. This was a legitimate City Council action. As our representatives, you voted to influence policy, on another level of the government to benefit Cambridge citizens and other residents.

We have come down the chute a long way from simple, matter of fact, law-related activities like this.

A charity to which I contribute asked me, this week, to look into something about the Cambridge City Council. I was told that a national lobbying group, based on US university campuses (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction or BDS), now has several Councilors working on a resolution to boycott Hewlett-Packard (HP) products. The resolution actually has hidden in it a

political resolution against Israel. This resolution is a statement that claims, as an undisputed fact, that a true ally of the US is conducting human rights abuses against Palestinians.

HP is just a come-on, it seems, to pull the Council into murkier waters.If this lobbying group is involved, even to the extent of preparing the resolution **by meeting with a select group of Councillors to compose it**, the Councillors involved are being used. The boycott of HP is a smokescreen issue. HP is an employer in Cambridge and all over the world. The real purpose of the group is not to boycott HP, but to single out only one country where HP does business—Israel.

Please send me a copy of this boycott resolution as soon as it appears, as I know I spoke to Councillor Kelley and he had not seen it. Or, please let me know how I can get one. Please also notify me if you know which Sbcommittee of the Council (this would have to go through a Subcommittee, correct?) or which Councillor is working on this. I would like to speak with them, if I can, to express my concerns about whether or not they are using an open process to formulate what is really "legislation".

Thank you very much, Tim. If you are ever up in North Cambridge, please stop by. And yes, my wife and I still both vote for you.

Sincerely,

Stuart

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